ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system for extracting both explicit and implicit social relations among people and organizations are provided. Various relations are explicitly defined in a tree structure in a social-relationship database. Based on the explicitly defined relations, implicit relations among people and organizations can also be extracted. According to a method for performing a database search concerning social relations of an entity (person or organization), first, in response to a search request received from a search requester, which contains the identity of the entity, explicit relations of the entity are extracted from the database. Next, implicit relations of the entity are extracted based on the extracted explicit relations. Thereafter, the extracted explicit and implicit relations may be formatted and sent to the search requester. In one embodiment, the method is implemented over a network, such as the Internet.